

- Desde Puerto Rico, Solidaridad con nuestras hermanas y hermanos inmigrantes
- Canciller cubano responde

# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

## for Socialism | por el Socialismo

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Socialist Unity Party

Partido de Socialismo Unido

# Migrants, trans people first targets of Trump

By Melinda Butterfield

Jan. 31 – The first 12 days of the new Trump administration have seen an avalanche of attacks on the working class and oppressed peoples of the United States and the whole world. Federal workers, reproductive rights, diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, students opposed to genocide in Gaza, teachers, and AIDS prevention and treatment are just a few of the targets.

The most brutal executive orders have been directed at two especially vulnerable sections of the working class: migrants and transgender people.

The Trump regime has openly and savagely declared its intent to bring home the genocidal policies carried out in Gaza under Biden.

The “shock and awe” of hundreds of executive orders is meant to overwhelm, demoralize, and disorganize workers and our communities, unions, and organizations to make it impossible for people to fight back.

But fighting back, in unity and with massive numbers, is the only way to push back the onslaught and organize a militant resistance to stop this government.

When an executive order freezing

*Continued on page 2*

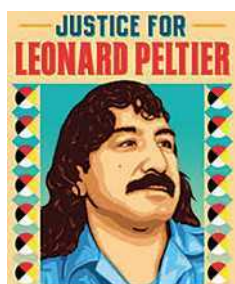
Activists protest Trump's anti-trans executive orders at the Kentucky State Capitol, Jan. 30.



Protest against ICE raids on schools at the Oklahoma State Capitol, Jan. 28.



Nazis burn the archives of the Institute of Sexual Science in Berlin, Germany, May 1933.



Release him NOW!

U.S. military @ Reagan Airport

Trump tariffs enrich the oligarchy



NOLA Nurses & Superbowl

Trump's racist hate

- Xizang
- Appalachia
- Altadena
- Opposite responses



# Migrants, trans people first targets of Trump

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all government funding for grants and loans caused state Medicaid and SNAP (food stamp) websites to shut down, the broad and immediate outcry forced the Trump government to temporarily walk back some portions of the freeze. This was a small but important victory.

It's been pointed out that many of Trump's executive orders hold no particular legal weight. Many of them are blatantly illegal and unconstitutional, such as the attempt to repeal birthright citizenship. All will be challenged in court.

But government agencies, businesses, and institutions are rushing to implement these attacks anyway – either because they are eager to do so, or because they fear lawsuits, loss of funding, and repression if they do not.

They all understand that the far-right U.S. Supreme Court has declared Trump and his oligarch allies like Elon Musk exempt from the rule of law.

The word has come down through Trump and his lackeys, IT billionaires who dominate social media, the heights of Corporate America, and the capitalist media: Fascism is what the ruling class wants now, and it's what they shall have.

Democrats in Congress have quietly acquiesced, and sometimes enthusiastically joined in – as Biden and Harris did during the 2024 presidential campaign by refusing to defend trans lives and promoting anti-immigrant measures.

But our power to fight fascism doesn't rest on legalities. It depends on the struggle of class against class. Trump and the bosses understand this very well and will do everything in their power to continue pitting workers against each other to prevent a united resistance.

## ICE raids and concentration camps

After Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20, agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were dispatched to several so-called sanctuary cities, where local laws were enacted under the first Trump term in office to prevent local police from collaborating in federal roundups of the undocumented, and others caught up in the web of repression.

On Jan. 29, Trump announced that a detention camp for 30,000 migrants would be opened in the U.S. Naval base that occupies Guantanamo in Cuba. This is where hundreds of illegally detained men were tortured and imprisoned as part of the U.S. "War on Terror." Some spent more than two decades imprisoned there, and as of Jan. 6, at least 15 still remain.

Socialist Cuba, which has been fighting for the return of its rightful territory in Guantanamo, condemned Trump's plan.

The ICE gestapo are supposedly going after migrants accused (not convicted) of crimes and offenses. Yet they have also targeted children in schools, patients in hospitals, and workers on the job. Some hospitals and school districts have issued guides for workers on how to resist these illegal ICE incursions.

Indigenous peoples, particularly in the Southwest, have reported a surge in detentions and threatened deportations of tribal members, despite being the original inhabitants of this land. Every person of color is considered fair game.

But there is resistance. In cities across the U.S., people are on the lookout for ICE vehicles and federal agents. Community defenders are patrolling vulnerable neighborhoods and distributing "Know Your Rights" information. People are posting photos and locations of suspi-

cious movements on social media to warn their neighbors.

Is it effective? Trump's "border czar," Tom Homan, went on CNN to complain about "well-educated" communities defying ICE: "They call it 'Know Your Rights.' I call it 'how to escape arrest.'"

## Trans genocide

The forces backing Trump need and want to continue exploiting immigrant labor. They seek to terrorize immigrant communities with deportations in order to create even more brutal conditions and lower wages for those who remain.

In the case of trans people, though, the goal of the fascist right is outright extermination. Executive orders have come down daily attacking the ability of trans people to live their lives.

Already, passports and other federal documents are being altered, nullified, and seized to hamper people's ability to travel and, if necessary, escape the country. Trump has ordered an end to life-saving gender-affirming care for young people under the age of 19 while laying the groundwork for a ban on trans health care for adults, too. And some hospitals are rushing to comply.

A trans restroom ban in federal facilities goes into effect today, including in government offices, airports and much more. The administration will also push for a restroom ban in all private facilities and workplaces. Trans soldiers are being expelled from the U.S. military.

Trans women in federal prisons are to be transferred to men's prisons to be tortured, raped, and murdered, as already happens in many states. Teachers are threatened with being prosecuted as

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# Why the delay?

## Release Leonard Peltier now!

By Gloria Verdieu

In a final act of clemency on Jan. 20, President Joe Biden commuted the life sentence of Indigenous activist Leonard Peltier.

Peltier, an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, was a prominent figure in the American Indian Movement (AIM), which gained national attention in the 1970s for its advocacy of Native American self-determination and resistance to government oppression.

On April 18, 1977, a jury found Peltier guilty on two counts of first-degree murder for his alleged participation in the killing of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. He was sentenced to two consecutive life terms for aiding and abetting murder.

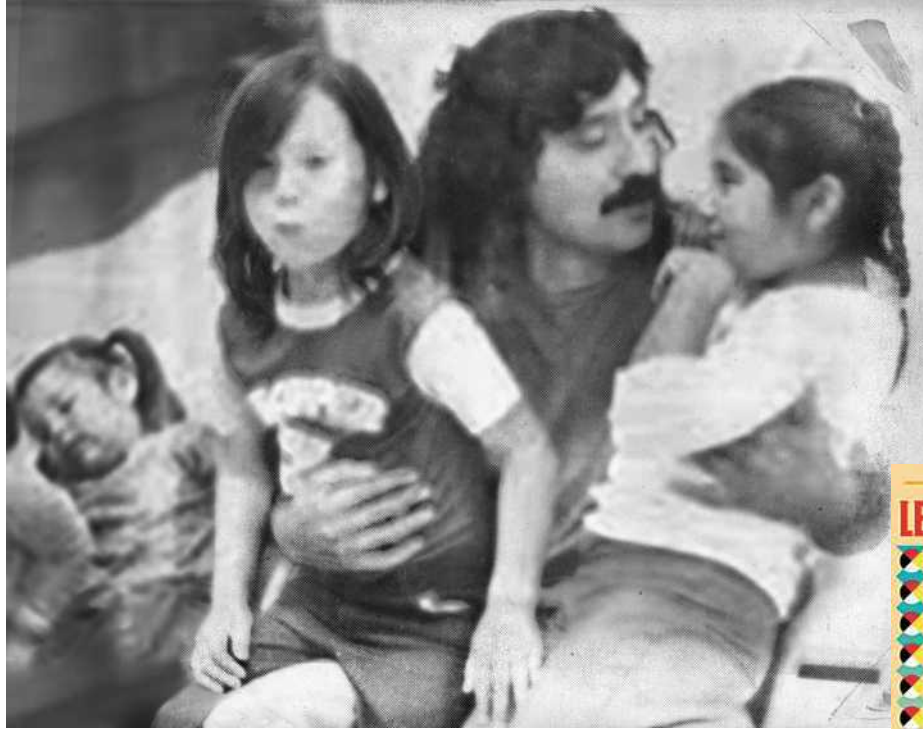
Three AIM members were charged; two, Robert Robideau and Dino Butler, were acquitted of the same charges in separate trials based on self-defense.

The late Federal Judge Gerald William Heaney, who wrote a decision denying a new trial based on suppressed evidence, later urged Leonard Peltier's release, stating that the FBI used improper tactics to convict him.

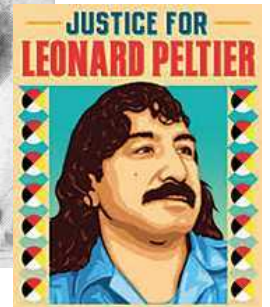
The decision to commute Peltier's sentence, made just hours before Biden left office on Jan. 20, marks a significant moment in the decades-long fight for freedom, justice, and the broader struggles for Indigenous rights in the United States. Peltier was denied parole in July 2024 and would not be eligible again until 2026.

In February 2022, Kevin Sharp, former Federal Judge, had this to say in his push for clemency for then 77-year-old Leonard Peltier in an interview on CBS News:

"This is really Leonard's last hope because of his age, because of his health problems. Clemency is just a time-served reduction; this is what he de-



Leonard Peltier seen here before his long, unjust incarceration.



serves. Really, the next step in trying to heal the relationship with the federal government and the Native American community, context matters, and it is hard to understand what happened at Pine Ridge in '75 without understanding Wounded Knee in '73 and Wounded Knee in 1890. To end all the misconduct and broken treaties before that. That's what led to this conflict and the FBI's involvement. It is the President's sole power at this point to fix that."

Why did Biden commute Peltier's life sentence just before he left office?

Biden's move was part of his record-setting number of pardons and commutations, including nearly 2,500 individuals convicted of nonviolent drug offenses and several other high-profile cases.

Joe Biden said in a statement that the decision to commute Peltier's sentence was part of his broader efforts to address the injustices of the past.

Tribal Nations, Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, former law enforcement officials, (including the former U.S. Attorney whose office oversaw Mr. Peltier's prosecution and appeal), dozens of lawmakers, and human rights organiza-

tions strongly support granting Leonard Peltier's clemency, citing his advanced age, illness and his close ties to the leadership in the Native American community and the substantial length of time he has already spent in prison.

Biden said, "Leonard Peltier will now have the opportunity to spend his remaining years with family and loved ones."

In the years since his conviction, Peltier's story has become one of the most enduring symbols of Indigenous resistance and the fight for justice in the U.S. His case continues to generate debate about the intersection of race, justice, and the U.S. legal system.

Leonard is now 80 years old. President Biden's commutation on Jan. 20 is a welcomed victory in the fight to bring Leonard Peltier home. Leonard's health is deteriorating, yet his release date is not until Feb. 18. Why the delay?

**Release Leonard Peltier!**  
**Bring Leonard home today!**

*Gloria Verdieu is an activist in the San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and All Political Prisoners.*

# The Super Bowl con game:

By Louisiana Workers Council

**Gov. Landry wines and dines the super-rich, promises corporations low wages, tax breaks, freedom to union-bust, discriminate, and pollute**

**Millions in taxpayer dollars spent to rehearse a military occupation of New Orleans**

You've worked hard and deserve to enjoy a good game. Come Sunday, get your chips and dip, BBQ, gumbo, beer, and relax.

But read on to see what the Super Bowl extravaganza costs you the other 364 days of the year. As we experience a few hours of entertainment, the mega-wealthy run away with a pot of gold at our expense.

**Benson family got rich by extorting public funds**

Let's start with the Saints franchise. The Benson family — first Tom and now Gayle — have followed a playbook of using the franchise to suck up public money. The billionaire Gayle Benson got rich by threatening to take the Saints elsewhere and pocketing the money once the state caved in to her demands for more of our tax dollars.

If the city owned the team, like they do in Green Bay, hundreds of millions of dollars would return to the city. Instead, the whole state subsidizes Benson's profits with our tax dollars. The franchise pays no rent to use the Superdome (and the Benson family doesn't pay a dime for using the Smoothie King Center, either), and they pay no sales taxes on the hundreds of millions in ticket sales, concessions, and merchandise, despite how much they charge for them.

The state even paid the Bensons \$186 million of our money in 2011 to keep the team in New Orleans and another \$392 million through 2025. On top of this, they sold a massive office building to Benson for \$80 million with real estate tax exemptions (meaning more free money for her), and the loan is guaranteed by public debt. The \$138 million renaming fee paid by Caesar's also goes right to Benson, with no benefit to the city.

**'But Queen Benson gives us turkeys ...'**

Benson has managed to convince people she's generous and good with her turkey giveaways and donations. Don't be



In July 2023, Donald Trump appeared with Jeff Landry at the tourist hotspot Cafe Du Monde in New Orleans. Landry aligned himself closely with the MAGA movement when he was Louisiana's Attorney General.

fooled by these publicity stunts. Every bit of her so-called charity is a tax write-off and a photo-op. What she gives is a tiny fraction of what she has taken from us. Meanwhile, reporters recently exposed emails that prove that she and the team management conspired with the media and the former DA Leon Cannizaro to cover for the Catholic Church as it sought to shield clergy from rampant rape and sexual abuse charges. Clearly, we workers have our morals, and the rich — whether Benson, Landry, Trump, Biden, or Musk — have their own.

The NFL operates the same way. Its alleged charitable activities in the lead-up to the game are nothing but a smoke-screen to distract from the fact that it is earning billions from the Super Bowl while giving us next to nothing.

**Local capitalists get rich while we get nothing**

The local hospitality moguls rake in millions from the Super Bowl, telling us it's "good for the economy," but none of those profits seem to trickle down to us. Small vendors have been banned. Almost none of the taxes derived from the boost in business go back to the city. Millions are spent to flood the city with cops. Taxes levied at hotels and restaurants are given to unelected private organizations like the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District, the Convention Center, and New Orleans and Company. And they claim they can't afford to fund our schools or to give us workers health

insurance, sick leave, vacation pay, or a living wage.

The most recent renovations of the Superdome cost \$506 million. That's on top of \$376 million in 2016. Meanwhile, the school board has to beg \$20 million. While it's the Mayor who's blocking this agreed-upon sum, the City Council, despite its outcry, is complicit. They've all wasted millions of our tax dollars on the more than 500 projects meant to impress the luxury yacht owners who have shown up for the Super Bowl. They're accommodating private planes at the airport while the rest of the city falls apart — literally. How many buildings have collapsed in the last few months? Hell, we can't even get street lights replaced or potholes filled, but the city can fork over millions to Benson and other elites, expecting us to serve them while we can't even afford rent.

**Governor Landry and President Trump miss no opportunity to wine and dine capitalists with our money**

Gov. Landry, who is bought and paid for by corporations and who personally benefits from state funds (our money), is hosting a week of lavish events for some of the richest people in the world. Executives and owners of Amazon, Tesla, Google, Meta, and oil and gas companies, to name just a few, are showing up for the big game, and Landry is rolling out the red carpet. They will all wind up in special suites that cost between \$750,000 and \$1.2 million, paying tens of thousands for tickets to the game, enjoying special treatment that none of us can possibly afford. Nosebleed seats cost \$5,000 a pop. Meanwhile, Landry is pushing for tax cuts for these mega-rich parasites while he raises our sales taxes to the highest in the country.

He's especially sucking up to Zuckerberg's company Meta, giving them special tax exemptions, rewriting laws for them, offering discounted electric rates, and subsidizing their new mega AI data center near Monroe that will use up to a third of the state's electric capacity, endangering us all in times of crisis, especially during hurricane season. He's stealing our money to hand over to Meta so they can drain our electricity, destroy the environment (these data centers are major contributors to climate change),

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# Billionaires get richer on our dime

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all so they can create AI that will steal our jobs or spy on us.

This is Landry's plan for Louisiana -- loot the state treasury for every cent we pay in taxes to make his pals richer, pay off his stormtroopers, and pocket as much money as he can. Even though Landry and the legislature have already rammed through the increase in our sales tax among many other anti-worker laws, we'll have the chance on March 29 to reject some aspects of his tax plan at the ballot. Vote no on amendment 2 to reject the tax plan, and vote no on amendment 3 to keep kids from being tried as adults.

Meanwhile, President Trump has decided to attend the Super Bowl this weekend to rub elbows with his billionaire friends. His visit will bring the Secret Service on top of the state police, ATF, FBI, and National Guard who have been patrolling the French Quarter as part of Landry's racist attempt to, in his words, "bring New Orleans to heel."

The armed forces currently patrolling the streets of New Orleans have nothing to do with protecting us. Landry is taking advantage of our grief and fear over last month's tragic terror attack to test out a military occupation of New Orleans. His sweeps of homeless en-

campments and constant antagonizing of locals are all part of pandering to real-estate developers and other millionaires he serves. Trump's attendance at the game is a slap in the face of everyone he has attacked in his first few weeks in office, a display of the luxury he lives in while we are impoverished by his executive orders.

Enjoy the game this weekend, rest, and gear up for the fight we've got on our hands. It's the working class vs. the billionaires. They've got their superyachts, jets, and skyboxes, but we've got the power of millions if we join together to fight for our right to a decent life. #



New Orleans nurses go on strike through Super Bowl weekend.

Photos: National Nurses United

## New Orleans nurses extend strike through Super Bowl Sunday

By Gregory E. Williams

Nurses employed at the University Medical Center in New Orleans began striking on Feb. 5. Originally, the National Nurses Organizing Committee – the union representing 600 nurses in the UMC system and affiliated with National Nurses United – only planned on a two-day strike. But now it's set to last through Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 9 because of contract requirements of the replacement-worker staffing agency.

They went on strike back in October as well. So, this is the second time the union called a strike and yet they still

don't have their first contract because the bosses at LCMC Health System have been stalling. The nurses voted to unionize in December 2023 and have been in these contract negotiations since March 2024. Enough is enough!

In a press release, RN Shonda Franklin said:

"We don't take this decision lightly. But so many of us are tired of seeing our fellow nurses leave UMC because management can't ensure basic things like uninterrupted lunch breaks on our 12-hour shifts. It's time for a change, and a strong contract is how we get that done."

These nurses and other medical workers are always there when our community needs them. They were there to take care of the victims of the New Year's Eve French Quarter terrorist attack, just as they were all throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In both cases, they were dealing with dangerous understaffing, long hours, and many other problems caused by the for-profit healthcare system.

History proves that the needed workplace change won't come without a union and a struggle. These nurses are showing how to do it. #

# Trump blames workers as military lead to the deadly Reagan Airport

By Gary Wilson

A catastrophic mid-air collision on Jan. 29 sent a commercial jet and a military helicopter crashing into the Potomac River, killing all 67 people on the jet and in the helicopter. The disaster is now raising urgent concerns over the dangers of military aircraft operating in civilian airspace — a long-standing but often overlooked risk to both airline workers and passenger airlines.

At approximately 9:00 p.m. EST, a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter collided with American Airlines Flight 5342, which was arriving from Wichita, Kansas, with 60 passengers and four crew members. The commercial flight was attempting to land at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, just outside the U.S. capital.

## A disaster waiting to happen

While investigators are still piecing together the exact cause of the crash, early reports indicate that military aviation activity in congested airspace may have played a significant role.

The Black Hawk aircraft was allegedly at least 100 feet higher than permitted and was half a mile off its agreed flight path when the collision happened over the Potomac.

The Black Hawk helicopter was part of a Continuity of Government (COG) exercise, a military drill designed to simulate the evacuation of top officials in the event of a national emergency. Such exercises occur regularly and often without public knowledge, meaning military aircraft

— often flying at low altitudes — share airspace with civilian airliners.

Compounding the danger, in 2019, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) quietly allowed military aircraft to turn off their tracking systems (ADS-B) during “sensitive operations.” This means that commercial air traffic controllers — already overburdened and understaffed — may not have had complete visibility of the Black Hawk’s flight path. It is unknown whether the helicopter had its tracking system disabled at the time of the crash.

Under the Biden administration, military spending and operations were expanded significantly. These military flights routinely occur in some of the country’s busiest and most complex civilian airspaces, increasing the risk of collisions. The Washington, D.C., area is practically a war zone, with all the military aircraft overlapping flight paths of commercial and private planes. Reagan National Airport, in particular, is in the heart of U.S. global military operations, close to the White House, the Capitol, the Pentagon, and the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

These factors make the region one of the most dangerous places in the U.S. for commercial air traffic.

## Understaffing, deregulation, and military encroachment

The tragedy also shines a light on the chronic understaffing of air traffic controllers, which has created increasingly unsafe conditions.

A 2023 FAA report found that 77% of all U.S. air traffic control facilities are understaffed, with some operating at just 54% of necessary levels. Reagan National, where the crash occurred, had one controller handling both helicopters and commercial flights — despite procedures requiring two controllers for such operations.

This staffing crisis is a direct result of decades of union-busting and deregulation. The 1981 PATCO strike, in which President Ronald Reagan fired 13,000 air traffic controllers and broke their union, began a long decline in safety standards. Since then, air traffic controllers have been forced to work longer hours with fewer resources, while corporate-driven deregulation has placed profits over public safety.

CBS News reports that NASA safety data identified at least nine near-midair collisions at the ironically named Reagan Airport since 2005, including three involving helicopters.

Adding more military aircraft into this already overburdened system only increases the risk of disasters like this one.

## An avoidable tragedy

History repeatedly shows that military aircraft operating in civilian airspace often lead to near misses and fatal accidents due to their unique flight patterns, operational secrecy, and lack of coordination with commercial aviation systems.

Unlike commercial jets, which follow strict, standardized flight paths monitored by civilian air traffic controllers, military aircraft frequently conduct high-speed maneuvers, training exercises, and classified missions that may involve sudden altitude changes, restricted tracking, or communication blackouts. These factors create dangerous conditions where commercial pilots and controllers may have little warning before a conflict arises.

Over the years, numerous incidents — some resulting in catastrophic crashes — have demonstrated that allowing military and civilian flights to share the same airspace is a recipe for disaster that needs to be stopped now.

## WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century

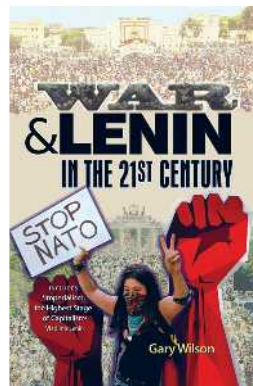
Updated to include U.S. complicity in the Gaza genocide and military profiteering.

Gary Wilson

Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and a key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism” in 1916. It remains an influential critique of imperialism. As in Lenin’s time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs.

Lenin’s pamphlet on Imperialism is included.

Paperback or kindle at [tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar](http://tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar)



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# operations crash

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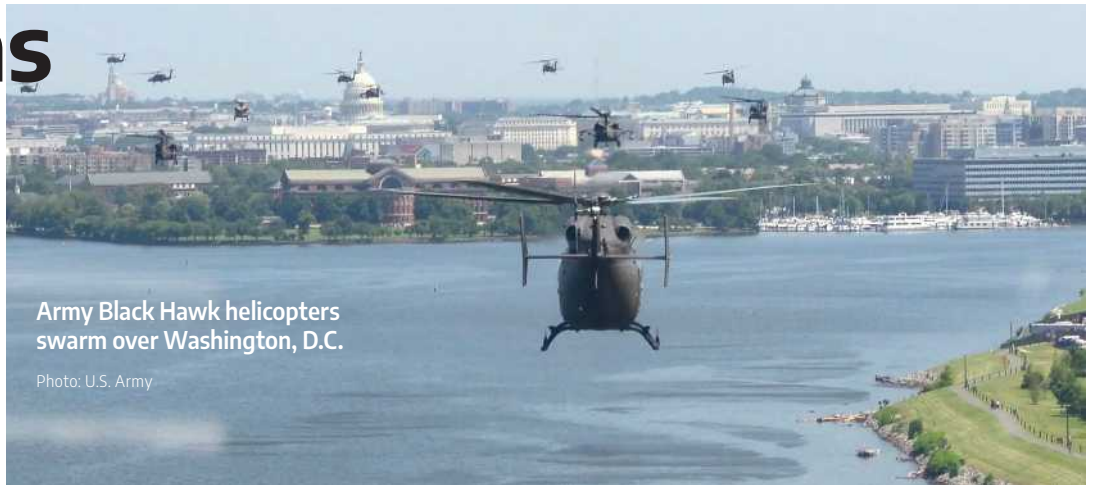
## Blaming workers instead of addressing military risks

President Donald Trump used the tragedy to launch an attack on airline workers, falsely blaming diversity hiring policies at the FAA for the crash.

At a White House briefing, Trump blamed “diversity, equity, and inclusion” (DEI) policies — a baseless and bigoted claim. Vice President J.D. Vance went even further, falsely suggesting that qualified white air traffic controllers had been denied jobs due to affirmative action policies.

Army Black Hawk helicopters  
swarm over Washington, D.C.

Photo: U.S. Army



These statements are pure racism and bigotry, meant to be divisive and divert attention from the real issues. The actual cause of the tragedy was the combination of military flights, air traffic controller understaffing, and government inaction on safety concerns.

The tragic deaths of 67 people in this avoidable disaster must not be forgotten. This is not just an issue for aviation workers and airline passengers — it is a fight for the safety of all workers and the people against a government that continues to prioritize military interests. #

# Migrants, trans people first targets of Trump

*Continued from page 2*

“sex offenders” if they acknowledge the real names and genders of their trans students.

These measures will further escalate anti-trans violence on the streets and in schools, as well as suicides, especially for youth.

All of it is being couched in hypocritical language about “protecting” children and women.

No LGBTQIA+ people are safe from the storm. On Jan. 29, Idaho state representatives called on the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn its 2015 ruling legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide — a move the right-wing justices have already hinted they plan to make soon.

Every statement and executive order names trans people as one of the main causes of the country’s problems.

Make no mistake: Extermination of trans lives is the aim of the capitalist ruling class and the Trump regime. This community has been assigned the role of scapegoat.

For trans people, the only option being presented is to go back into the closet. If we cannot or will not do so, we are to be criminalized, imprisoned and tortured, or eventually murdered outright.

## Which side are you on?

Many of us learned about the prose poem “First They Came” in school. It was written after World War II by German

pastor Martin Niemöller, who originally collaborated with the Nazi regime, then discovered he was not safe from the ravages of fascism himself.

“First they came for the communists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a communist

“Then they came for the socialists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a socialist

“Then they came for the trade unionists

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a trade unionist

“Then they came for the Jews

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a Jew

“Then they came for me

And there was no one left

To speak out for me.”

The poem was written as a warning to future generations: Ignore the plight of fascism’s first victims at your own peril, because your turn will come.

Some groups targeted by Hitler and his Nazis were left out of the poem, however — notably, the migratory Roma and Sinti peoples, and also queer people, who were shipped off to concentration camps marked with a pink triangle. This symbol was later famously reclaimed by ACT UP in the fight against government neglect of the AIDS epidemic.

One of the first targets of the Nazi regime in Germany was the Institute of Sexual Science in Berlin, led by Dr. Magnus

Hirschfeld. Hirschfeld was a pioneer of gender-affirming health care for trans people. The institute was an advocate and safe haven for trans people in the Weimar era that preceded the Nazi takeover.

On the night of May 6, 1933, a few months after Hitler became chancellor, the Nazis swarmed the institute, destroying its library and records in one of the first major book burnings.

So reviled were trans lives that the post-war German capitalist government and many “experts” refused to acknowledge that trans people were victims of the Holocaust until a court case in 2022 finally forced a measure of recognition.

(In the antifascist German Democratic Republic — socialist East Germany — pre-Hitler science on homosexuality and transgender was partially recovered, before the counterrevolution and German reunification in 1990. Notably, East German understanding of queer lives informed the development of Cuba’s policies, leading to the revolutionary new Families Code in 2022.)

Will working-class organizations be able to relearn history’s lesson in time to fight back in defense of its most vulnerable members? Or will these extinguished lives be relegated to the first line of a new “First They Came” decades in the future?

How these questions are answered will decide the fate of the working class in the U.S. and worldwide for many years to come. #

# Weaponizing the dollar: Trump's tariff tactics as economic

By Gary Wilson

On Feb. 1, President Donald Trump announced tariffs on imports from Mexico, Canada, and China, signaling the start of a potential global trade war. Dubbed “Tariffs to Protect Americans,” the policy sets a 25% tariff on most goods from Mexico and Canada and a 10% tariff on Chinese imports.

Tariffs have become a key part of Trump's aggressive MAGA economic plan. On Jan. 27, he even called “tariff” the fourth-most beautiful word in the dictionary — after “God,” “love,” and “religion.” He often praises former President William McKinley, calling him “the tariff sheriff,” and claims that McKinley's aggressive tariff policies sparked an era of “American prosperity.”

In truth, the booming U.S. economy of the late 19th century was driven by many factors, such as rapid industrialization, new technology, and the expansion of railroads. Yet the most significant factor was the flood of immigrants, who provided a large, low-wage labor force. Capitalist profits come from labor and require an expanding workforce to grow. These workers powered factories, built infrastructure, and boosted demand for goods and services.

McKinley believed high tariffs would shield U.S. industries from foreign competition and boost domestic growth. The McKinley Tariff of 1890 raised rates to record levels, especially on manufactured goods. Although some domestic manufacturers enjoyed short-term gains, the overall impact was harmful. U.S. companies paid more for imported materials, farmers lost export markets due to retaliatory tariffs, and consumers faced higher prices. In fact, the McKinley Tariff helped spark the Panic of 1893, a severe economic depression.

Trump's tariffs could be just as disruptive. They will likely push up prices for everyday items like food and household goods, hit working families hard, and force companies that rely on foreign parts to cut jobs or even close plants. Manufacturing, shipping, and transportation jobs could be at risk as trade slows and companies shift production to



McKinley Tariff helped spark the Panic of 1893 and a deep depression in the economy

dodge the tariffs. When production and shipping costs rise, the working class suffers.

## How is Trump able to do this?

Trump's broad use of tariffs is possible because power over trade has shifted from Congress to the executive branch over decades. Although the Constitution gives Congress the authority to regulate trade and set tariffs, presidents have slowly taken over these decisions.

Behind this is the growth and centralization of capital. The means of production have become centralized in ever smaller and more powerful groupings of financiers, industrialists, and military contractors, buttressed by huge mega-banks of transnational proportions, now popularly referred to as the oligarchy.

Capitalist development has fueled the rise of a handful of massive financial institutions and shadow banks tightly linked to the executive branch. The president now serves as the most direct and powerful tool of finance capital, some might say, of the oligarchs.

Congress has ceded power to the president. This shift benefits a small group of wealthy business interests and financial institutions that prefer fast, central-

ized decision-making over lengthy Congressional debates.

The president can impose tariffs with little oversight using laws like the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act, and Section 301 of the Trade Act. In short, Congress's role has shrunk, allowing the executive branch to shape policy to favor an entrenched capitalist oligarchy.

## Tariffs on Colombia

Tariffs have become a modern weapon used by Wall Street and the Pentagon. U.S. imperialism has turned economic pressure into a powerful tool — one that can cause more harm than bombs or guns. This tactic, sometimes called “dollar weaponization,” works because the U.S. dollar is the world's primary reserve currency.

Because most international trade (especially oil) is done in dollars, and most banking transactions go through the SWIFT system and U.S. banks, the U.S. can use its control over these systems to wage economic warfare. When “weaponized,” these tools can restrict access to dollar transactions, freeze the assets

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# warfare

## Trump and Musk 'close' USAID

By Juana Carrasco Martín

*Continued from page 8*

of other countries, block them from trade, and control banking transactions through the SWIFT system.

Trump has a history of using tariffs for economic coercion. On Jan. 26, he announced steep tariffs on Colombia for not accepting U.S. military planes carrying deportees. Just ten hours later, he backed off after Colombia reversed its decision.

### Tariffs on BRICS

Then, on Jan. 30, Trump warned that goods from BRICS nations would face 100% tariffs if they tried to move away from the U.S. dollar in international trade.

BRICS — initially founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa and now joined by Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates — is a coalition mainly of Global South countries. It is a counter to the G7 and NATO that offers an alternative to U.S. imperialist policies.

Although BRICS does not directly challenge the capitalist system, it offers a way for countries to resist imperialism and colonialism. For the working class, Trump's hardline approach against BRICS is a warning. Tariffs and trade wars disrupt global supply chains, threaten jobs, and increase prices.

Instead of attacking countries that want to break free from imperialist control, we should stand in solidarity with workers around the world who are fighting for fair wages, safe conditions, and economic justice. #

Havana, Feb. 4 — The “gibberish” was formed in Washington. The couple of the moment, Donald Trump and Elon Musk, closed USAID — the United States Agency for International Development, — one of the arms that mask US interventionism in the world, one of the claws of the CIA and other intelligence services to obtain information about other countries and influence their internal and external policies, a tentacle of the State Department to foment dissidence that leads to “regime change” when it is provided, in short: a driving force behind US positions on the world stage.

Musk, the tsar of governmental efficiency at the head of the department created especially for the purpose of bringing order to the administrative institutions of the State and even probably privatizing it, had for days been criticizing the agency on his powerful networks and, although it may seem unheard of to you, he went so far as to describe it as

“a radical left-wing psychological political operation”, which is impossible to prove and very difficult to believe even for the most naive earthling, but that is of no importance for the absolute power enthroned in the White House.

In any case, on Sunday, after signing an executive order freezing foreign aid, Trump followed the rhyme and told reporters that USAID had been run “by radical crazies, we will get them out and then we will make a decision”.

USAID is being dismantled by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). With a single stroke of the pen, the police closed its doors and put up yellow tape to prevent employees from accessing the facility, its website was disconnected, as were the accounts of hundreds of its employees and hundreds of fired contractors.

The AP news agency even said that senior USAID officials — the “candorosos” John Voorhees, director of security, and deputy director Brian McGills — were escorted out of the building after blocking DOGE's access to secure systems and refusing to hand over classified material. But the almighty DOGE accessed it, including intelligence reports, which is something else. They were unaware that Musk had passed sentence: USAID is a criminal organization and it is “time for it to die”.

The Democrats came to the defense of USAID, created in 1961. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) said late last week that any attempt to dissolve USAID would be “illegal and contrary to our national interests,” but Trump made it clear to him that he would not require an act of Congress to eliminate it. “I don't think so. Not when it comes to fraud. There is fraud. These people are crazy. And if it's fraud, we wouldn't have a congressional act, and I'm not sure we would have one anyway.”

Senator Andy Kim (Democrat-New Jersey), who was one of the agency's soldiers, came out quickly to defend it: “Its vindictive way of trying to shut down USAID sends signals to the whole world that we are a nation at war with itself,” and sends a message to adversaries that



CONFEDERACIÓN SINDICAL  
DE TRABAJADORES/AS DE  
LAS AMÉRICAS

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Members of the Xizang Forest Fire Brigade in China help to transfer local people's household items after the earthquake.



## Trump's recent visits to climate disaster sites underscore capitalism's failures, while China's response to the Xizang earthquake shows the way

A total of 407 people have been rescued and over 30,000 relocated after a magnitude-6.8 earthquake jolted southwest China's Xizang Autonomous Region. Governments at all levels deployed rescuers, funds and relief supplies to the quake-struck area.

Prefabricated housing was assembled in approximately 2-3 minutes by the China Railway Group Limited (CREC).

# From Xizang to Appalachia & Altadena:

By Sharon Black

**President Donald Trump recently visited two U.S. climate disaster sites — Asheville, North Carolina, and Los Angeles. In addition to racist rants against immigrants and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion) hires, he also targeted the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).**

Trump said his goal was to shut down the already underfunded agency and pass the problem of disaster relief to the states and local politicians to avoid federal responsibility.

Western North Carolina, particularly Buncombe County, suffered the worst damage and loss of life from Hurricane Helene. Entire villages in Appalachia were wiped out, and 105 of the 230 Helene victims lived in North Carolina. Some residents went weeks without water or power.

### People in Appalachia remain cold and homeless

More than four months after Hurricane Helene struck, many residents in western North Carolina remain essentially homeless. They are temporarily housed in hotels and face eviction during a freezing winter. More than 1,600 families lost access to Transitional Sheltering Assistance because FEMA was unable to contact them digitally.

### California disaster continues

The Palisades and Eaton Fires in California were contained after nearly a month, but the danger of mudslides remains. To date, 29 people have been reported dead, and victims are still being identified. At least 17,000 homes

and structures were destroyed, leaving families homeless and left to fend for themselves.

Meanwhile, predatory landlords have hiked rents, often violating Governor Newsom's rather weak emergency decree limiting rent increases to 10% this month.

Health consequences in the region have not yet been fully measured, especially for young children, infants, and older people, whose lungs are more at risk of disease from inhaling poisonous air. The Los Angeles-based Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice has called on the government to convert military production from bombs and guns to manufacturing air purifiers and personal protective equipment (PPE).

While Trump demagogically attacked Los Angeles's Black Mayor, Karen Bass, he did not condemn price-gouging landlords, multi-million-dollar insurance companies, or profit-hungry utility companies such as Southern California Edison. Residents in Altadena, where 75% of African Americans living there own their homes, have charged the company with negligence and greed.

### Trillions to the war machine

Nevertheless, the U.S. government continues to funnel trillions into the war

machine, which includes genocide in Palestine. Imperialist war remains the priority for U.S. government spending.

### China's disaster response to the Xizang earthquake

While the Eaton Fire broke out on Jan. 7 in the United States, people in China's Xizang Autonomous Region (referred to as Tibet in the Western press) suffered a devastating 6.8-magnitude earthquake. What followed in China contrasts sharply with what transpired in the U.S.

China's President Xi Jinping ordered all-out rescue efforts to save lives. He called for top priority being given to treating the injured, meeting the basic needs of those affected, and speeding post-disaster recovery.

The earthquake struck at 9 a.m. Village representatives from the local government and the Communist Party of China immediately alerted the central government and went door to door to begin rescue efforts — even before specialized teams arrived. Military aircraft from the Western Theater Command took off early that day to set up a command station in Dingri County. Disaster teams, medical personnel, and supplies — including members of the People's Liberation Army — were already on their way.

A report and video titled "Heroic Rescues After the Xizang Earthquake" from

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Asheville, N.C., Sept. 27, 2024. Months later there were still many roads closed and homes without power.



A person uses a garden hose in an effort to save a home from catching fire during the Eaton Fire on Jan. 8.



# A tale of opposite disaster responses

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The Point in Beijing, released just 24 hours after the quake, explain the process in depth. What's remarkable is that these efforts took place at high altitudes, in freezing temperatures, and with limited daylight. Pictures show Chinese rescue teams using drones to light up the area and working around the clock.

More than 14,000 people participated in the rescue efforts, and 46,000 have been relocated and housed. By Jan. 8, the largest highway had been cleared, and hot meals were available.

The Chinese People's Armed Police Force's Xizang Contingent organized a voluntary blood donation drive in response to a critical shortage at the Xizang Autonomous Region blood center caused by the earthquake.

A new recruit told the Global Times, "As soldiers, it's our duty to help the people in the disaster area." About 200 soldiers took part in the drive.

## Workers solidarity is universal

In Gurong Village, Dingri County, 31-year-old village leader Sang Jie sprang into action as soon as the first tremors struck. After alerting the central government, he organized local teams to rescue people by digging them out with their bare hands until professional crews could arrive. A Facebook video from CGTN features an interview with him.

In Los Angeles, Marcia Garcia, an undocumented immigrant from Guatemala, sprang out of bed after hearing about the fires in Altadena. With her sons, she grabbed buckets and hoses and drove to the historic Black community in Altadena to help. In an NPR interview, she said, "Our values and our principles come first. That's what our parents taught us. They always used to say, 'Help others without concern for who they are or why they need help.'"

In western North Carolina, similar stories of heroism and sacrifice emerged. A young boy hiked more than 11 miles

through mountainous terrain to reach his mother. Eddie Hunnel, carrying only a life vest and rope, jumped into the New River to save a woman trapped in a house being washed away by the storm. He paid little attention to his own safety, though he later admitted he was shaken when the real danger sunk in. Hunnel was in the area for his son's wedding.

From China to Los Angeles and Appalachia, ordinary people have shown an incredible capacity for sacrifice and altruism and the ability to work together. Such cooperation and solidarity are key to human survival.

What is missing in Los Angeles, North Carolina, and the United States as a whole is a system that matches our natural ability to cooperate, protect one another, and act heroically when needed — a system that puts people's needs before profits.

China's President Xi Jinping summed it up best: "Saving lives is the most important thing." It should always come before capitalist profits and imperialist war. #

## The U.S. War Drive Against China: What it means for workers

China celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its transformative revolution, which liberated the nation from feudal oppression and imperialist control in 2024. Under the leadership of Mao Zedong, the Communist Party of China achieved what many deemed impossible — inspiring not just China but working and oppressed peoples worldwide.

The revolution brought an end to China's 'Century of Humiliation,' which began with British imperialism's First Opium War in 1839. Over the past 75 years, there has been significant progress for the masses and China's working class. Today, China stands as a global scientific powerhouse, boasting achievements in pollution reduction, and space exploration. The People's Republic has made significant strides in healthcare, education, and sports.

At no point has U.S. monopoly capitalism adopted a hands-off approach toward the development of socialism in China or elsewhere. **"The U.S. War Drive Against China: What it means for workers,"** aims to illuminate the growing dangers posed by a potential U.S. war against China and to reveal the real enemies of the working class.

<https://tinyurl.com/USWarChina>





# FROM CELL TO CELEBRATION: Gaza streets erupt as released

By Lev Koufax

In recent weeks, a series of prisoner swaps has unfolded between Palestinian resistance groups and Israel, stemming from the Jan. 19 ceasefire deal. While the media spotlight has primarily centered on the Zionist captives, those held by Palestinian resistance are most accurately described as prisoners of war, not hostages. In stark contrast, over 9,000 Palestinians remain incarcerated in Zionist prisons, including many elders and minors.

Since the ceasefire, hundreds of Palestinian prisoners have been released from Zionist prisons. This is a major victory for the resistance and all the families who can finally welcome their loved ones home.

## High-profile leader released

Several newly released Palestinian prisoners were high-profile leaders in the various resistance groups. This includes Khalida Jarrar, a 62-year-old woman and leading member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The Zionists held Jarrar in solitary confinement for six months under “administrative detention” — a legal mechanism that allows them to hold any Palestinian indefinitely without charge or trial. Jarrar was freed along with 69 other women and 21 teenage boys, some as young as 12.

After six years in a maximum security prison, Al Aqsa Martyrs’ commander Zakaria Zubeidi was finally released as part of the ceasefire exchanges. Zubeidi was a crucial figure in the Second Intifada and was set to serve a life sentence before his release.

Mohammed Abu Warda, a Hamas commander active in the Second Intifada, was serving 48 terms of lifetime imprisonment before his release. Prominent Fatah political activist Mohammed al-Tous was also released after 39 years in a Zionist prison.

However, it is not only prominent fighters or political leaders who are finally free from Zionist detention. The vast majority of those held in Zionist prisons are everyday people detained solely because they are Palestinian.

For example, Ali Nazzal from Qalqilya finally returned home after 17 years to meet his teenage son for the first time. That’s right. Ali had been in a Zionist prison for so long that he had never met his son. However, due to the Palestinian people’s steadfast resistance, Ali is now reunited with his family.

Another prisoner who will see the light of freedom after 20 years in a Zionist prison is Palestinian scholar Husam Shahin. While incarcerated, Shahin wrote two novels about the occupation. Upon his release, he was immediately

transferred to a hospital for emergency care as the Zionist occupiers had performed surgery on him without anesthesia while in jail. Shahin is currently resting in a local hospital and is expected to make a full recovery.

## Harsh conditions in Zionist prisons

It should be noted that the released Palestinian prisoners nearly universally described the horrific conditions they experienced in various Zionist prisons and detention centers — reports of starvation, torture, and psychological abuse were common.

This stands in stark contrast to the accounts of the Zionist captives held by Hamas, who described being treated with respect and kindness.

The return of the Palestinian prisoners has justifiably filled the people of Gaza with pride and joy. This has been on full display in recent weeks as resistance groups and Palestinian police have marched through the streets of Gaza City alongside the newly released prisoners.

This pride did not go unnoticed by the fascist war criminal Benjamin Netanyahu and his accomplices. After images of Al-Qassam Brigade fighters marching through the streets surfaced on social media, Netanyahu immediately took to

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## LA demonstrators mark: Anniversary of Hind Rajab’s killing in Gaza

Los Angeles activists remain a strong presence outside the Zionist consulate. Their signs pay tribute to 5-year-old Palestinian martyr Hind Rajab, who, along with her family, was murdered by the U.S.-backed Zionist military in Gaza on January 29, one year ago. #





# prisoners return

*Continued from page 12*

the airwaves to spread hateful anti-Palestinian bile. Netanyahu denounced the Al-Qassam processions as “horrific” and “shocking.” In fact, Netanyahu briefly halted the entire prisoner exchange, creating chaos and confusion among the ranks of the Red Cross and even the Zionist authorities.

## The enduring spirit of Palestinian resistance

One question for the war criminal: Is it common for a nation not to celebrate its victories in war and the return of its prisoners? Why should the Palestinian people cower in silence at the feet of occupiers and U.S. imperialists? For Netanyahu to attack the very spirit of the Palestinian people — while an individual cannot walk down the street anywhere in “Israel” without seeing IDF propaganda — is the height of colonial arrogance.

In reality, Netanyahu is simply embarrassed because the prisoner exchanges demonstrate the falsehood of the Zion-



Zaharia Zubeidi, former leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, center, is greeted upon his arrival after being released from an Israeli prison in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Jan. 30.

ist assertion that the occupation forces destroyed Hamas. The fact remains that anti-colonial resistance cannot be destroyed, whatever its form. As long as U.S. imperialist-backed occupiers seek to steal Palestine, the people will fight to keep it.

These prisoner exchanges represent

a positive development for the Palestinian liberation struggle and are certainly a victory. With that said, any resistance group will say that the struggle is not over until every part of Palestine is returned to its people — from Gaza to the Jordan River.

Long live Palestine. #

# LA groups protest war criminal Netanyahu's White House meeting

By Lev Koufax

Activists gathered outside the Zionist consulate in Los Angeles on Feb. 6 to denounce war criminal Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's White House visit and the continued U.S. imperialist escalation against the people of Gaza, the West Bank, and all of Palestine.

Organizers from several organizations participated in the demonstration, including the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Al-Awda — The Right to Return Coalition, Code Pink, and Justice 4 Palestine.

During the event, alleged reports of a possible shooter in a building across the

street brought out the police and fire department. John Parker of the Harriet Tubman Center addressed the crowd:

“This is not going to scare us away. We know that police and the state will try to discourage protests with fear and sometimes intentional provocations. I don't know if this was them or a fascist Zionist trying to scare us, but the point is, it will not stop us. It will just encourage us to do more.”

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist.



# China responds to Rubio's remarks on South China Sea

In response to a U.S. State Department statement claiming new U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussing Beijing's "dangerous and destabilizing actions in the South China Sea" with his Philippines counterpart Enrique Manalo over phone and underscoring the "ironclad" U.S. defense commitment to Manila, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Thursday that the U.S. is not a party to the South China Sea issue and has no right to interfere in the maritime issues between China and the Philippines.

Mao said "the military cooperation between the U.S. and the Philippines should not undermine China's sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, still less should such cooperation support or advance the Philippines' illegal claims." China will continue to take necessary steps to firmly safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests and uphold peace and stability in the South China Sea, said Mao.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke Wednesday with Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Manalo about issues of mutual concern, including so-called China's "dangerous



and destabilizing actions in the South China Sea."

Li Haidong, a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University, said that the U.S. will continue the diplomatic rhetoric, but to what extent Rubio's remarks will turn into concrete actions in the region is still a question.

"The Marcos Jr. administration of the Philippines also needs to learn that the U.S., especially under the leadership of the Trump administration, will not be hijacked by any other countries, including its allies, for any unnecessary dangers," Li noted.

Lü Xiang, an expert on U.S. studies and research fellow at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, told the Global Times on Thursday that the Trump administration is likely to continue to launch groundless accusations against China's legitimate acts in the region.

"However, the Trump administration will be less interested in getting involved too much on issues not directly related to U.S. core interests, as this is what 'America First' means. In addition, China now has much more strength [to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests] in the region, and the consequences of being 'unnecessarily provocative' would be unaffordable to both Washington and Manila," Lü noted.

The Chinese military conducted joint sea-air combat readiness patrols in the South China Sea from January 17 to 19 to maintain peace and stability in the area, according to a statement by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command. The statement was issued after the Philippine Navy held live fire drills and carried out joint maritime exercises with the U.S. in the South China Sea.

"Any military activity that stirs up trouble in the South China Sea is within our control," the PLA statement read. The statement directly targets the provocative exercises conducted by the Philippine navy near Huangyan Dao, and its joint exercises with the U.S., Zhang Junshe, a Chinese military expert, told the Global Times.

*Global Times*

## Trump and Musk 'close' USAID

*Continued from page 9*

"the United States is distracted and divided." "Distracted, I don't know, but divided, yes."

However, Secretary of State Marco Rubio tempered the situation when he announced his appointment of the acting director of USAID: "There are many functions of USAID that will continue, that will be part of US foreign policy, but they have to be aligned with US foreign policy." If you didn't understand, the translation is easy, the policy spearheaded by the Trump-Musk duo, and of which Rubio is a devalued underling, has as its ultimate goal "making America — read it carefully: the United States — great again."

So far they have not spoken, or I have not read anything about USAID's close coordination with the National Endow-

ment for Democracy (NED), the spearhead and front for the spy services that works with non-governmental organizations, nor how their alliance with the Pentagon will turn out, where some of their manuals recognize their role in so-called counter-insurgency and nation-pacification operations.

Considering the services provided, I would venture to say that we will soon see the same old boy, with almost identical aims, perhaps with a different name, remodeled and more efficient, to guarantee the hegemony of the USA against an emerging world ready for multipolarity.

For now, a couple of well-intentioned questions: Will they or won't they leave the budget of more than 50 billion dol-



lars to the whatever-it's-called, to be fished out of the swamp? Will the generous contributions to the organizations of the anti-Cuban mafia lobby in Florida flow again and with them the allowances to their low level employees in Cuba?

*Source: Juventud Rebelde, translation Resumen Latinoamericano – English*



# Trump has a special hatred for Africa and people of African descent

By Stephen Millies

Within the first three weeks of his second presidential administration, Trump's crimes have included:

- Fascist round-ups of immigrant workers, with hundreds being deported in military aircraft while being shackled. Trump is setting up a concentration camp for immigrants in Guantánamo on land stolen from Cuba.
- Trump launched a storm of anti-trans attacks, radically removing trans people's rights, banning gender identity from all official documents such as passports, banning transgender women and girls from participating in women's sports, and restricting or even eliminating gender-affirming care.
- Menaced Colombia with a trade war when Colombia's President Gustavo Petro protested the mistreatment of Colombian immigrants.
- Trump is seeking to take over Greenland, annex Canada, and is threatening to invade Panama. Thousands of U.S. troops have been sent to the Mexican border. Trump has ridiculously ordered renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.
- Now, Trump wants to seize Gaza and kick out two million Palestinians who have survived 15 months of genocide.
- Yet, with all of his attacks on Latin America and Palestine, the first country that Trump bombed was the African country of Somalia.

Trump has a special hatred for Africa and all Black people. He wants to turn back the clock to the days of undisguised white supremacy.

On his second day in office, Trump rescinded President Lyndon Johnson's 1965 executive order banning discrimination in hiring by the federal government and its private contractors. Washington Post columnist Karen Attiah has rightfully called Trump's campaign against Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), an effort at resegregation.

Trump's attendance at the Super Bowl depends on the message "End Racism" being removed from the end zone.



In this photo provided by U.S. Africa Command, the U.S. military is launching airstrikes against Somalia on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025.

Darren Beattie — Trump's pick to be the State Department's Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs — is an open bigot.

Beattie wrote on X: "Competent white men must be in charge if you want things to work. Unfortunately, our entire national ideology is predicated on coddling the feelings of women and minorities, and demoralizing competent white men."

## The apartheid connection

Donald Trump's entire life as the offspring of a real estate mogul has been coated with bigotry. Trump and his daddy were sued by the U.S. government in 1973 for refusing to rent to Black people.

Trump took out full-page newspaper ads when five innocent Black and Latinx youths were framed for assault in the 1989 "Central Park" case. Trump has never apologized, even though the Exonerated Five were freed after years in jail and compensated.

One of the five, Yusef Salaam, has been elected to the New York City Council.

On Feb. 3, Trump condemned South Africa for a law that has taken small amounts of land from whites. Thirty years after the fall of apartheid, whites still control 70% of land in South Africa, all of it stolen from Africans.

Trump whined on his Truth Social account that "South Africa is confiscating land, and treating certain classes of people VERY BADLY." The term "certain classes" means white settlers.

Trump is now suspending all U.S. aid to South Africa, most of which funds HIV/

AIDS prevention efforts. That's as genocidal as the U.S.-made bombs that killed thousands in Gaza.

Fox News and all fascists call any efforts at land justice in South Africa to be "White Genocide." During Trump's first administration, two pro-apartheid white farmers from South Africa — Kallie Kriel and Ernst Roets — met with National Security Advisor John Bolton.

Kriel and Roets also met with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) officials. This shows how this agency, which is being shut down by the Trump regime, was about U.S. domination, not helping people.

Elon Musk — Donald Trump's virtual co-president — is the son of an apartheid-era emerald mine owner. Musk also attacked the land law, as did Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Vice President JD Vance's mentor is the billionaire Peter Thiel, who was brought up under apartheid. Thiel's millions in campaign contributions were vital in electing Vance as a U.S. Senator from Ohio.

Alongside Trump's attacks on immigrants, Palestinians, and Black people are his vicious attacks on transgender people. Bigotry hurts all poor and working people.

Trump & Co. want to return to the days before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, which helped smash open colonial rule. Millions of people need to come out in the streets — as we did during the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020 — to stop this fascist regime. #

# Desde Puerto Rico, Solidaridad con nuestras hermanas y hermanos inmigrantes

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Aquí en Puerto Rico estamos viviendo tiempos muy turbulentos.

La nueva gobernadora que apenas ocupó su puesto el pasado 2 de enero, ha demostrado ser lo que ya sabíamos: una escoria, una verdadera basura humana. Una achichinche de Trump, derechista y corrupta como él. Y copiándose de él, ha asumido su papel de dictadora, al tratar de gobernar mediante decretos e imposiciones para beneficiar a su círculo familiar y sus allegados multimillonarios que le pagan su costosa campaña electoral.

Su desdén por las vidas, tanto del pueblo boricua como de los miles de inmigrantes que conviven, producen y aportan al país, es inconcebible.

En su campaña para ganar votos visitó comunidades de inmigrantes, que en Puerto Rico suman aproximadamente 200,000 personas.

Sin embargo, no tardó en vacilar y obedecer los dictados de Trump cuando éste comenzó la cacería, la persecución de inmigrantes. De la forma más ruin, lue-



go que le había asegurado a la comunidad dominicana residente en la isla, la más numerosa del país, que la política de trump no les afectaría, se sumó a la defensa de las redadas por la Migra, la agencia estadounidense de Inmigración, que allanaron comunidades de clase trabajadora donde reside la mayor parte de la comunidad dominicana, llevándose a la fuerza y violentando los derechos civiles de esta comunidad inmigrante.

Pero también por este medio, queremos dejar saber nuestro profundo rechazo a esta agresión contra nuestros hermanos

y hermanas inmigrantes dominicanos y haitianos sobre todo. En cada una de nuestras luchas, hemos estado alzando la voz en repudio de estas criminales acciones de los gobiernos estadounidenses y su administración local colonial. Se ha compartido infor-

mación sobre los derechos de la persona inmigrante, se han puesto abogados y abogadas a la disposición, además de manifestaciones frente al tribunal federal en San Juan.

Y seguiremos defendiéndoles y denunciando este crimen inhumano contra nuestros hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes, porque inmigrante, somos todos y todas de este mundo. #

Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio Clarín de Colombia, les habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.



## Canciller cubano responde a insinuaciones de Marco Rubio: Se quedará con las ganas. No podrá conocer Cuba

Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, aseguró este martes que el Gobierno cubano, con el respaldo del pueblo, continuará defendiendo la Revolución, la independencia y la soberanía nacional.

En X, el Canciller denunció la injerencia de Estados Unidos y sus agendas de cambio de régimen en las múltiples administraciones que se han sucedido en ese país desde el triunfo de la Revolución en Cuba, en 1959.

“Llevamos 13 presidentes de EE. UU. y perdimos la cuenta de los Secretarios de Estado”, indicó en uno de sus mensajes.

Señaló además que el actual Secretar-



Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla

io de Estado, Marco Rubio, quiere visitar La Habana, pero antes cambiar el Gobierno.

“Se quedará con las ganas. No podrá conocer Cuba, país del que no sabe absolutamente nada. No fue invitado”, añadió.

Por su parte, Johana Tablada, subdirectora de la Dirección General de Estados Unidos, comentó en la red social Facebook que “Marco Rubio nunca dice la verdad. Cuando de Cuba se trata mucho menos. Dice que no quiere venir hasta que tumbe el «régimen»

dice que solo vendría a imponer que se vaya el gobierno. Él sabe que no puede venir a Cuba”.

La diplomática agregó que, al igual que con Bob Menéndez, su compromiso con grupos especiales de interés que se enriquecen con la guerra económica y el odio vs. Cuba, está muy por encima incluso del interés nacional de EEUU. “Las presiones y la confrontación no han funcionado”.

Tomado de Cubadebate  
Foto: Enrique González (Enro)

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